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STAR OF MYSORE

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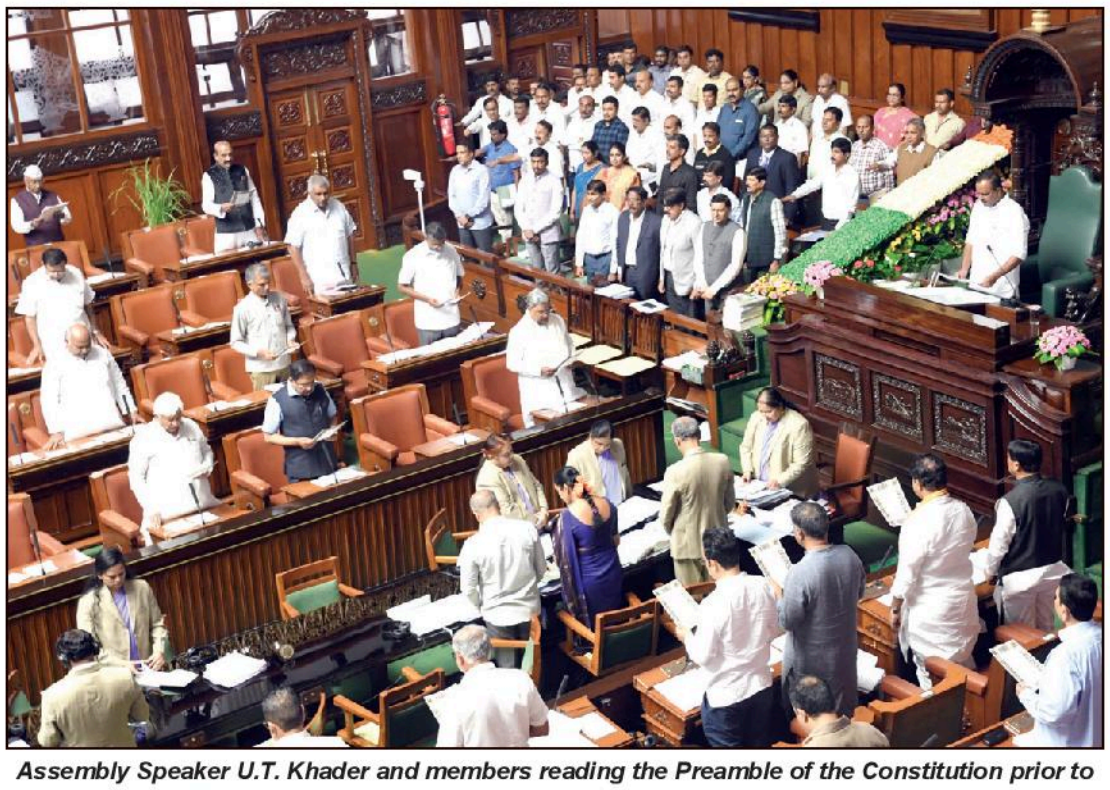
Monsoon Session of State Legislature begins

Bengaluru, July 15 (KMS&DM)- The ten-day Monsoon Session of the State Legislature began here this morning, with the Opposition BJP-JD(S) combine all set to put the Government on the mat in respect of various alleged scams including MUDA (Mysuru Urban Development Authority) and Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited (KMVSTDCL), which have been hitting the headlines of late.

Soon as the session began, KMVSTDCL Chairman and MLA Basanagouda Daddal, who had reportedly gone absconding after the ED (Enforcement Directorate), which intensified the investigation into the multi-crore KMVSTDCL scam arrested former Minister B. Nagendra three days ago, appeared at Vidhana Soudha to attend the session.

By attending the session, Daddal, the Congress MLA from Raichur Rural, seems to take refuge under a rule which prohibits Legislators, who are either booked in criminal cases or need to appear before an investigating agency, from being arrested until the end of a Legislature Session, it is learnt.



Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader and members reading the Preamble of the Constitution prior to the start of the Monsoon Session of State Legislature in Vidhana Soudha this morning.

The Session began with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah making obituary references to the passing away of former Ministers Nagamma Keshavamurthy and M.P. Keshavamurthy, former Union Minister V. Sreenivasa Prasad, former MP Moodalagiriappa, former MLAs Vasu, Vasanth Bangera, Basanagouda Guranagouda Patil, Nagareddi Patil, Ramesh Kumar Pande and T.H. Shivashankarappa, actor Dwarakish, writer Kamala Hampana, actor - anchor Aparna and other dignitaries since the last Budget Session held in February.

Later, the Assembly paid tributes to the departed leaders and dignitaries by observing a one-minute silence as a mark of respect to them.

Thereafter, the House began its proceedings, when the Opposition BJP-JD(S) members raised the scams of the Government and tried to create ruckus in the Assembly, when Speaker U.T. Khader, whose appeal to maintain calm and allow discussions on issues, went in vain, adjourned the session to afternoon, it is learnt.

Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and former Union Minister Pradeep Kumar Jain watched the Assembly proceedings today, sitting in the Gallery.

The ten-day Legislature Session ends on July 26.

To Our Readers

*Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled **"Time to remember prophetic words of former Mysuru DC."** —Ed*

Mysuru's first Skin Bank to come up at K.R. Hospital

Rotary Bangalore comes forward with Rs. 50 lakh project; To be inaugurated on Sept. 28

Mysuru, July 15 (RK&BCT)- Mysuru's first Skin Bank will come up at K.R. Hospital, attached to the century-old Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI). The Skin Bank will be established free of cost by Rotary Bangalore at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 lakh.

The facility will come up at the renovated Burns Ward of K.R. Hospital and will be inaugurated on Sept.28, coinciding with the centenary celebrations of the institute established by Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar. MMC&RI is the first medical college in the erstwhile Princely State of Mysore.

The announcement of the Skin Bank was made this morning at World Plastic Surgery Day observed by the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Burns Surgery at MMC&RI. July 15 is observed as World Plastic Surgery Day and as part of the event, a day-long Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme was organised.

A Skin Bank is a specialised facility dedicated to collecting, processing and storing donated human skin for medical use. It serves as a crucial resource in treating patients with severe burns, chronic wounds and other serious skin injuries. At present, the nearest Skin Bank for patients from Mysuru is Bengaluru's Victoria Hospital Skin Bank.

(See SKIN BANK on page 7)

Judicial probe ordered into MUDA site scam

P.N. Desai

Bengaluru, July 15 (Agencies)- The State Government yesterday constituted a Judicial Commission to probe into the alleged scam in land allotments by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). Justice Padmaraj Nemachandra Desai, a retired judge of the Karnataka High Court, is the sole member of the Commission.

"The Government has decided to constitute a Commission of Inquiry to conduct an inquiry by a retired Judge of the Hon'ble High Court under sub-rule (1) of Rule 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952," the Government said in a notification.

The Commission was constituted just hours before the State Legislature's Monsoon Session, which began today. The Congress State Government constituted the commission after allegations of large-scale irregularities in land allotment by MUDA, especially under a 50:50 land exchange scheme created in 2020 during the BJP regime.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi is also an alleged beneficiary of the controversial scheme after being allotted 14 prime plots in Mysuru in exchange for a 3.16-acre parcel of land outside Mysuru city that was gifted to her in 2010.

(See PROBE on page 7)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 15th July 2024

LKG-UKG classes to be started in Anganwadi centres: Minister

Lakshmi Hebbalkar

Bengaluru, July 15 (DM)- Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar said that pre-primary classes - LKG (Lower Kindergarten) and UKG (Upper Kindergarten), will be started in Anganwadi centres.

Speaking to presspersons here yesterday, Lakshmi Hebbalkar said that LKG and UKG will be set up in 250 Anganwadi centres across the State on a pilot basis. The Government itself will provide bags, books, uniforms etc., to children, she added.

Continuing, the Minister said that upgradation of Anganwadi centres will be taken up and Montessori classes will be started in about 20,000 Government Schools across the State.

The Government will soon take a decision on introducing insurance scheme for Anganwadi workers, Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar added.

Asserting that there are no plans for retrenching Anganwadi workers, Hebbalkar said that Anganwadi centres, which are more than 30 years old, will be upgraded.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF NAMASTE: ***Greetings like 'good morning' in English and*** *bonjour* ***in French, when translated, simply wish the other person a good morning to enjoy. The uniqueness of*** *namaste* ***lies in its translation, which is rooted in Sanskrit:*** *namah* ***means 'bowing down' and*** *te* ***means 'to you.' When we say*** *namaste,* ***we virtually bow down to the divinity present in every individual, rather than the person themselves.***

It does not mean that the person uttering it actually bows down to the person whom he addresses, but virtually does so to the divinity present in every individual.

The Japanese have the culture, known as *Ojigi,* ***of bowing down at various angles, for different numbers and lengths of time, from the torso upwards, as a form of greeting, respect, gratitude or apology at social or religious occasions. We have the tradition of bowing down to elders to seek their blessings.***

However, the word *namaste* ***is singularly distinctive in its universality and spiritual connotation and can be used for someone younger than oneself as well. The reason is explained in our scriptures. The*** *Vibhuthi Yoga* ***of the*** *Bhagavad Gita* ***explains the glorious attributes of the Almighty and says that the Almighty is equivalent to the most glorious of any particular species.***

As such, every human should try to imbibe the magnificent qualities of the Almighty so that the Almighty can happily reside as the super-soul within the individual, witnessing all actions. But when the individual commits actions or exhibits characteristics contrary to the attributes of the Almighty, the super-soul is subdued and suppressed. This point is highlighted in the following story from the *Puranas.*

Upon the entry of the monarch, Daksha Prajapathi, who happened to be the father-in-law of Lord Shiva, all assembled stood up in reverence except Lord Shiva, upon which the king got consumed with anger. When his daughter Sati Devi questioned her husband as to why he snubbed her father, Lord Shiva, who had been meditating upon the Supreme Almighty, replied that her father was so egoistic that although he, Lord Shiva, tried hard, he could not see the super-soul residing in him and as such, he could not bring himself to bow before an empty shell.

—Sandhya Vasudev in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

UK's 'chief mouser' outlasts five PMs

London: Keir Starmer is now set to become the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK).

But while changes are afoot in the British Government, one thing remains constant: Larry the Cat will continue living at 10 Downing St., the official residence of the Prime Minister, according to reports.

For the last 13 years, Larry the Cat has served as the United Kingdom's "Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office"and has made a name for himself.

A gray and white tabby believed to be about 16 years old, Larry was first brought to 10 Downing St. in 2011. A former stray, he was adopted from the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, said the UK Government's official website, after the Prime Minister's official residence was experiencing a rodent infestation.

Since then, Larry has lived with five Prime Ministers – David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak. He will soon meet Starmer, the sixth. He is officially owned by the staff of 10 Downing St.

Man pays Rs. 50,000 to CA for Re.1 tax dispute

New Delhi: Apoorv Jain, a citizen of Delhi, has stirred up controversy on social media by claiming that he paid a Chartered Accountant (CA) Rs. 50,000 to settle a tax dispute that was only worth Re. 1.

Jain took to social media platform X to express his frustration, stating, "I paid a Rs. 50,000 fee to the chartered accountant for an income tax notice I received recently wherein the final disputed value turned out to be Re 1/-." He emphasised his seriousness by adding, "I am not joking."

HEALTH CAPSULE

Tobacco smoke is a major contributor to respiratory diseases, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer. Quitting smoking is one of the most impactful steps for lung health.

By Dr. Lakshmi Narasimhan R. - Consultant – Pulmonology - Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

**** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature***

Music University to hold State-level exams

Mysuru, July 15- A special State-level music, dance and talavadya examinations will be held from this academic year by the Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Mysuru.

In a press release, Music University Registrar said that the written examinations will be held on July 27 and 28 at 18 centres across Karnataka.

Practical examinations will begin from Aug. 16. Junior and Senior Practical examinations will be held at centres where theory examinations are held.

Pre-Vidwat and Vidwat Final practical examinations will be held at Mysuru, Bengaluru, Dharwad, Davanagere and Mangaluru zones. Syllabus prescribed by Karnataka Examinations and Valuation Board have been considered. Exam rules will be as per University/UGC rules.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **105.40 feet**	Today's level **2,282.46 feet**	Today's level **2,854.90 feet**
Last year's level **89.00 feet**	Last year's level **2,269.95 feet**	Last year's level **2,842.74 feet**
Yesterday's level **104.65 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,283.20 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,854.38 feet**
Today's Inflow **10,121 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **14,697 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **14,700 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **2,260 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **20,000 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **20,000 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *Owls don't have eyeballs. They have eye tubes.*
- *Butterflies can taste with their feet, using something called chemoreceptors to help them identify plants.*
- *Honeybees can flap their wings 200 times every second.*
- *Sharks kill fewer than 10 people per year.*
- *Leopards are animals who like to live alone and are incredibly powerful and can run at up to 58 kilometres per hour.*
- *The largest insect is the Atlas moth. Its wing span is 12 inches in length.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Deepak: *Why exactly do you keep laughing at your boss' jokes, all of which usually sound senseless?*

Roger: *I may not have a sense of humour, but I have at least a sense of security!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 83.57
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 108.40
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 22.75
1 Euro	= Rs. 90.97

VOICE OF THE READER

Cheluvamba Park gym equipment needs repair

Sir,

Cheluvamba Park, one of the oldest parks in Yadavagiri, located opposite the Mysore Akashvani, often makes news for its poor maintenance. The gym equipment installed at the park has been damaged for two years, but nobody seems to be bothered to repair it.

With the term of the MCC Corporators having ended a few months back, we have no one to complain to about the problems. Hence, on behalf of the residents and regular walkers, I appeal to the MCC Commissioner to instruct the officials concerned to take up the repair work and make the gym equipment useful for the users.

— Prakash

Mysuru
11.7.2024

20,000 cusecs released from Harangi Dam

Over 20,000 cusecs of water being released from Harangi Reservoir in Somwarpet Taluk of Kodagu district this morning, thanks to heavy rains that has increased inflow into the Dam. The water released from Harangi will reach the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam in Srirangapatna Taluk of Mandya District. Last evening, 5,000 cusecs of water was released and today morning, the outflow was increased to 10,000 cusecs and later stepped up to 20,000 cusecs. The heavy water discharge has led to flooding of several areas in Kushalnagar.

Karnataka to release 8,000 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu

Bengaluru, July 15 (Agencies)- After an all-party meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah yesterday, the Karnataka Government said it would release 8,000 cusecs of water daily to Tamil Nadu.

Last week, the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) directed the State to release one tmcft of water (11,000 cusecs) daily to Tamil Nadu until July 31.

"The overall opinion of all party leaders is that one TMC water cannot be released daily," Siddaramaiah told reporters. Apart from Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka, former CM D.V. Sadananda Gowda, MLA G.T. Devegowda and legislators from the Cauvery Command Area attended the meeting.

"The Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam is only 54 percent full. Water levels at all dams of the Cauvery basin (KRS, Kabini, Harangi and Hemavathy) is 63 percent of their full capacity," the CM said. Following the CWRC decision last week, the Karnataka government has decided to appeal the same before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

Releasing 8,000 cusecs of water was based on legal advice that not releasing any water at all would put the State in a problematic position. If the rainfall situation improved, Karnataka was willing to release more water, Siddaramaiah said.

As per forecasts, Karnataka was expected to receive a good spell of rainfall from July 17 to 24. "In a normal year, 9.14 tmcft in June and 31.24 tmcft in July should be released. If the situation does not improve, we will reduce the outflow," he said.

Comparing the situation last monsoon, the CM said that Karnataka faced a distress year in 2023 due to poor rainfall. As against the required outflow of 177 tmcft to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka could release only 85 tmcft last year, he added.

On July 12, the inflow was 5,000 cusecs water in Kabini, which was allowed to flow towards Tamil Nadu, the CM said, adding that 5,000 cusecs water was flowing in Biligundlu on Saturday.

He explained that on July 12, 20,000 cusecs and on July 13, 19,000 cusecs were released from Kabini dam because water cannot be stored for long due to its holding capacity. Siddarmaaiah said all the parties in Karnataka were unanimous that they should appeal to the CWMA stating that releasing one tmcft water daily was not possible.

State-level swimming competition

City students bag 28 medals

Mysuru, July 15 (VNS)- Seven swimmers representing city-based Global Sports Association (GSA) have bagged a total of 28 medals in the recently held N.R.J. State-level Sub-Junior and Junior Swimming Competition organised by Karnataka State Swimming Association at Basavanagudi in Bengaluru.

Results: S. Ruthva - six gold medals and one silver medal including individual championship; Subramanya Jeevamsh - two gold, four silver and one bronze medal; A. Samrudh - one gold, two silver and one bronze medal. All three have been selected to represent the State in the National-level Swimming Competition to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha later in the year.

Similarly in the girls' category, N. Harika won one gold and one silver medal, R. Sanvi - six silver medals and A. Adrith - two bronze medals.

The Association has lauded the medallists and also the swimming coach Pavan Kumar for training the boy and girls.

Will try to resolve River Cauvery issue: HDK

Mandya, July 15 (VNS)- Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy (HDK) yesterday said that he would hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to solve the ongoing River Cauvery water sharing dispute.

Addressing the gathering during a convention organised to thank the voters of Pandavapura for supporting him during the recently held Lok Sabha elections in front of Taluk Sports Stadium, he said that though it was not possible to resolve the River Cauvery issue, which existed from decades, immediately, he would ensure to hold discussions with PM Modi to resolve the issue as early as possible.

Stating that his father and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda was also in constant touch with PM Modi to resolve the Cauvery issue, HDK added that he would also work towards solving the issues related to the farmers in the coming days.

Taking a dig at the State Government, he said about 1,100 farmers had committed suicide since the Congress had taken over the helm of affairs.

"The State Government is not interested to solve issues related to farmers. I have been instilling confidence to the farmers over the past years and also tried to solve their issues when I was in power," the Union Minister stated.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Scientific Pranayama

Scientific Pranayama Foundation Trust (SPFT), Mysuru, has commenced various courses for practical sessions of Scientific Pranayama for the health and well-being of the public. For details, contact Mob: 99807-54914, 93412-02292 according to a press release.

Free homeopathy camp on July 16

Kevalin Charitable Trust, in collaboration with Manu Homeopathy Clinic, has organised its third bi-monthly free homeopathy treatment and medicine camp for children with special needs (suffering from intellectual disabilities, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy) on July 16 (tomorrow) from 9 am to 1 pm at N. Ranga Rao Memorial School for the Differently Abled, next to Metagalli Police Station on KRS Road in city. Dr. M.C. Manohar and team will conduct the camp. For details and registration, contact Mob: 84315-81823, according to a press release.

Art of Living Workshop

As part of Guru Purnima, Art of Living is conducting a workshop on yoga, pranayama, meditation and powerful breathing technique called Sudarshan Kriya from July 17 to 21 between 6 am and 8.30 am and 6 pm and 8.30 pm at its premises on Lalithadripura Road, Mysuru. For details, contact Mob: 94804-76825 or 94835-89825, according to a press release.

Couple held for gagging, robbing retired teacher

CCTV footage, technical data prove crucial in arresting Hassan couple from Mysuru City Railway Station

Mysuru, July 15 (RK&BCT)- Hebbal Police have cracked the daring daylight robbery where a retired teacher was gagged and tied by a man and a woman who came to her house on July 10 seeking rented accommodation. A couple from Hassan has been arrested.

Shanthamma, a 65-year-old retired teacher in Hebbal First Stage, was immobilised with a rope and they stuffed her mouth with cloth. The thieves stole her mangalasutra and bangles worth Rs. 3,85,000. Shanthamma is the wife of Mallaiah and was alone at home during the crime.

According to a Police press release, the arrested individuals are 29-year-old Chethan from Chitradurga, currently residing in Rajkumar Nagar, Hassan, and 24-year-old R.D. Vanitha, also from Chitradurga and living in Hassan. They were arrested at the Mysuru City Railway Station on July 13. Police said that Chethan and Vanitha were a married couple.

Value of stolen goods Rs. 5,50,000

Although in her dazed and shocked state, Shanthamma initially reported the value of her gold ornaments as Rs. 3,85,000, the Police later determined that the criminals had also stolen over seven silver articles from Shanthamma, bringing the total value of the stolen goods to Rs. 5,50,000.

Accused Vanitha and Chethan

Shanthamma lived on the first floor while the ground floor was available for rent. On the day of the crime, the couple introduced themselves as potential tenants, with the woman claiming to be pregnant. They ensured Shanthamma was alone and surveyed the area to avoid detection. They came once in the noon and returned at 3 pm to commit the crime.

The robbery occurred while Shanthamma was filling a bottle with drinking water at Vanitha's request. Vanitha approached from behind, covered Shanthamma's mouth and restrained her. Chethan and Vanitha then dragged Shanthamma to a room, tied her with a saree and stuffed her mouth with a cloth. They threatened her with a knife and chilli powder to prevent her from raising an alarm.

While Chethan held Shanthamma, Vanitha removed her gold chain. As the bangles were difficult to remove, Chethan used a cutting plier to cut them off. Apart from the stolen gold ornaments, the Police have recovered the chilli powder and the cutting plier used in the crime.

Crucial CCTV evidence

The crime occurred in a densely populated area, with houses surrounding Shanthamma's home. Despite this, the criminals managed to rob her. The Police obtained CCTV footage from homes and shops in the locality and were able to identify the suspects. Technical data further helped the Police to arrest the couple.

Taking the crime seriously, DCP S. Jahnavi and Vijayanagar ACP Gajendra Prasad formed a team led by Hebbal Police Inspector A. Mallesh. The team included Sub-Inspectors Keerthi and Praveen, along with staff members Harish, Mahesh Hosamani, Venkatesh, Subhanalla Baaldaar and Asha. Kumar from the technical cell assisted the team in arresting the couple.

The Police have subjected the couple to interrogation to ascertain whether they have committed any other robberies or crimes. City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar has commended the investigating team.

Trust urges action against white board bike taxis, e-rickshaw services

Office-bearers of Mysuru Autorickshaw Service Trust submitting a memorandum to Regional Transport Officer Devika Rani urging for banning the services of white board bike taxis and e-rickshaws in city.

Mysuru, July 15 (SPN&KS)- Mysuru Autorickshaw Service Trust has demanded action against the services of white board bike taxis and electric autorickshaws (e-rickshaws) which are plying illegally in Mysuru autorickshaw permit limits.

Trust President Saibaba Nagaraj, who met Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Devika Rani along with members of the Trust recently, said that legal action has been initiated against white board bike taxis on July 5 in Bengaluru and in the same manner legal action must be taken against white board bike taxis plying in KA-09 and KA-55 RTO limits.

Nagaraj urged the transport officer to stop the services of Rapido, Ola, Uber, Namma Hesaru and Namma Yatri in Mysuru at the earliest failing which he warned of staging protest against RTO officials in July last week.

Pointing out that RTO officials are being urged to conduct a grievances meeting of auto drivers, owners of tourist vehicles, drivers' association since four months, Nagaraj said that their pleas have fallen on deaf ears.

Private Bus Owners' Association President Pruthviraj, Sthree Auto Drivers Association's Sowmya, Maratamma, Shobha, auto drivers Jayaram, Ravi, Vijay, Somanaik and others were present.

Mahajana Law College students create awareness on traffic rules

Mysuru, July 15 (KS)- The students of SBRR Mahajana Law College, in association with VV Puram Traffic Police, conducted a rally and created awareness on traffic rules and regulations at St. Joseph's College Circle and Paduvarahalli Circle in city on Saturday. The students carrying placards with messages on road safety such as 'Wear helmet for your safety', 'Do not drink and drive', 'Do not over-speed' etc., assembled at the circles and handed over handbills containing information on traffic rules and information about fines for violating traffic rules.

VV Puram Traffic Sub-Inspector Lava and staff Yogesh, Mahajana Law College Principal K. Sowmya, teaching staff Bhavya, Mahesh Sharma, Siddaraju, Rashmi and others were present.

Rotary Club of Mysore Elite makes a start

Mysuru, July 15 (BS)- The induction programme of Rotary Club of Mysore Elite, a new club under Rotary International District-3181, was held at its office in J.P. Nagar in city recently.

Rotary District Governor H.R. Keshav, inaugurated the club by making a charter presentation. It has 33 members and Governor for the year 2024-25 Rotarian Vikram Dutt, distributed the kits and administered oath to them. The Governor Elect for the year 2025-26, Rotarian Ramakrishna released the Rotary Flag.

Extension Working President of the Club Rtn. Dr. Shivaprasad, released the bulletin of the club 'Spandana'. Club Secretary Rtn. Sukeesh Basappa proposed the vote of thanks.

Public interest issues in Mysuru

MGP to hold campaigns, protests till logical end

Mysuru, July 15 (SPN&VNS)- The Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) has decided to address various public issues in the city, including the MUDA site allocation scam, footpath encroachments, water supply, cleanliness and formation of ward committees. They plan to do this by organising various public campaigns — both online and offline — such as signature campaigns and protests.

In its monthly meeting held yesterday, the MGP decided to launch campaigns to ensure that those involved in the MUDA scam are exposed and punished.

The members expressed that people have lost hope in fighting corruption since all political parties are involved in the MUDA scam and signature campaigns alone might not be effective. It was decided to introduce new initiatives to urge Mysureans to join the protests against the alleged corruption in MUDA.

There was considerable discussion on an earlier MUDA scam report by former Mysuru Deputy Commissioner T.M. Vijay Bhaskar, who retired as Chief Secretary. The members questioned why the Government has not shared the report, especially given the public's interest in understanding the extent of corruption in MUDA.

MGP members in discussion during its monthly meeting held yesterday.

They expressed concerns that without a mass public protest, this current effort could be buried just like the previous scam report. The members also suggested that the Boards comprising elected representatives in Urban Development Authorities across the State, including MUDA, should be terminated.

Doubts over CA site allotments

The MGP expressed doubts about the allotment of CA (Civic Amenity) sites in Vijayanagar 1st to 4th stage, alleging that these sites had been allotted to influential persons.

They cited an example where a CA site in Vijayanagar, originally allotted for constructing a competitive examination training centre for students from economically weaker sections, was sub-leased by the academic board for the construction of an international school.

Footpath encroachments

The meeting also discussed official apathy regarding the encroachment of footpaths by shop owners in the city centre, including places like Gandhi Square, K.R. Circle and Sayyaji Rao Road. Despite several requests to authorities to form a vigilance squad — including officials from the Police and Law Departments, District Administration and Mysuru City Corporation — no action has been taken to prevent these encroachments.

Awareness on cleanliness

The members suggested that the Departments of Primary and Secondary Education, PU Education and Higher Education launch new initiatives to create awareness about cleanliness among students.

Concerns over dengue

Expressing concerns over the increase in dengue cases, the MGP members suggested writing a letter to the State Government to highlight the Health Department's apathy in controlling the disease and creating awareness. MGP Founding-President Bhamy V. Shenoy, members Arunkumar Shetty, S.V. Shankar, K.V. Bhanu Prasanth, B.S. Somashekar, Ravishankar, S. Shobha Sambhashivan, G. Sridhara, Narayana, D. Sanjay Kiran and R.R. Mathad were present at the meeting.

They also recommended that the State Government instruct these Departments to form committees at the district-level to develop awareness programmes.

CM inaugurates renovated western side entry of Vidhana Soudha

Bengaluru, July 15 (KMS&DM)- Ahead of the commencement of monsoon session of Karnataka Legislature today, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the renovated western side entry door of Vidhana Soudha, the seat of power, here this morning.

Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, CM's Cabinet colleagues, Legislators and others were present on the occasion.

FIR against former Wakf Board CEO for misusing Rs. 4 crore

Bengaluru, July 15 (Agencies)- Days after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) detained former Minister B. Nagendra in the alleged irregularities of about Rs. 187 crore in the Karnataka Maharishi Valmiki Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation Limited, the High Grounds Police in Bengaluru have registered a case against the former Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Karnataka State Board of Wakf for alleged misappropriation of over Rs. 4 crore.

The chief accountant of the Board, Mir Ahmed Abbas, filed a complaint against former CEO Zulfiqurulla, based on which the Police registered an FIR on July 6. It is alleged that the State Government had acquired a piece of land belonging to the Wakf Board and had paid Rs 2.29 crore.

Besides, the Board had received Rs 1.79 crore from the Endowments Department. On Nov. 26, 2016, Rs. 4,00,45,465 in the Board's Bank account at Benson Town's Indian Bank was transferred to the Chintamani branch of Vijaya Bank, to open a fixed deposit in the name of the CEO, Karnataka State Board of Wakf. This was initiated by Zulfiqurulla without bringing it to the notice of the Board, which led to a loss of Rs. 8.03 crore, the complainant alleged.

A criminal proceedings against Zulfiqurulla was initiated in a meeting on Mar. 31, 2022 and he was issued a notice for which he did not give a satisfactory reply. The matter was taken up with the Secretary of the Minority Department, who directed the Board to file a complaint against Zulfiqurulla on June 12, 2024, following which the complaint was filed.

Obituary

Ambrose Pereira

Mysuru, July 15- Ambrose Pereira (84), a resident of Gandhinagar, passed away at a private hospital in Bengaluru this morning.

He leaves behind one son, daughter-in-law, one daughter, son-in-law, grand-children and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral will be held tomorrow (July 16) at 9 am in Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kallena Agrahara in Bengaluru.

Ralph J.F. D'Souza

Ralph J.F. D'Souza (72), a resident of No. F/2, 5th Main, 5th Cross in Vidyaranyapuram, passed away in city yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife Adrin Lobo, son Arvin, daughter Benita and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral mass was held at St. Theresa's Church, near Silk Factory at 3 pm today, followed by the burial at Mysuru South Cemetery, according to sources.

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Time to remember prophetic words of former Mysuru DC

A view of MUDA building. Pic. right: ***Rohini Sindhuri, IAS, former Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru.***

Among animals man is considered a sapient animal with five sensory organs and also a sixth sense. One may call it by multiple names — gut feeling, omen, intuition or power of prophesy. Some people have the power to foresee what is to come either by observing the past events connected to a subject matter or an individual.

At present there is an ongoing scam and controversy that has erupted like an all-devouring volcano in our Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) that is threatening to destabilise the Government and even dislodge Chief Minister Siddaramaiah from his chair. This was foreseen as back as 2021 by the **then Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mysuru Rohini Sindhuri.**

She was doing her duty as a whistle-blower, but the Government turned a deaf ear. **Now in 2024, just three years on, we are a witness to an administrative fraud, huge financial loss to the State exchequer and above all involvement of high and mighty among our politicians and bureaucrats.**

The then DC Rohini Sindhuri had told *Star of Mysore* correspondent B.C. Thimmaiah in an interview on 8th June 2021 that ***"A precedent has been set, no Officer will dare to take on land-grabbers henceforth."*** She then spoke of 2,991 small and big Lakes in Mysuru District and how they are being "killed" and then encroached upon, adding **"you will write in paper and it will be forgotten. But you will remember this episode soon one day..." That day has come.**

At that time MUDA, under BJP Government, had already passed the resolution about the **50:50 site sharing scheme** between MUDA and the land-loser. But, Rohini Sindhuri had nothing to do with the MUDA. She was just talking about land-grabbing.

However, MUDA being in news for wrong reason I must add my bit to this maze of a **50:50 scheme** conceived with a *mala fide* intent and delivered with a sinister design to benefit the favourites among the politicians, bureaucrats and their friends. **I was told that the 50:50 scheme is a deal between the land-loser (person whose land is acquired by MUDA) and MUDA. Under this scheme, MUDA will not pay monetary compensation to the land-loser but instead give 50 percent of sites formed on that very land to the land-loser. Not stray sites or from another premium layout already formed.** I do not know, but let it be.

Being on the subject of MUDA (previously **City Improvement Trust Board - CITB),** let me recall my memory, as a journalist, about the affairs of CITB and MUDA since 1978.

I learnt there were less of politicians and more of experts in the MUDA Board. That was how persons like industrialist F.K. Irani, former Chief Engineer of Karnataka one G.S. Ganapathy and others, known for their expertise in Town Planning and integrity, happened to be in the MUDA Board. When I came here persons like Kengegowda and Kempegowda were the Chairmen. They were modelled after the politicians of the Gandhian mould. It was Kengegowda who gave us D. Devaraja Urs Road and Kempegowda who gave us Vishwamanava Double Road in Kuvempunagar.

Soon after, from the days of R. Gundu Rao as Chief Minister, CITB in Mysuru saw its steady decline and has now touched its nadir. The only other Chairman who earned the admiration of Mysureans was D. Madegowda.

Since the past over a decade, maladministration and corruption have enveloped MUDA so completely that many have suggested its closure for good and its residual responsibility of dealing with private developers be taken over by the Urban Development Ministry with a local office in the same building where present MUDA is.

In her interview with *Star of Mysore*, Rohini Sindhuri had elaborately spoken about land-grabbing by unscrupulous politicians and land developers of Gomala land (government land) and Lakes. They would first kill the Lake by filling earth, industrial waste and construction debris into the water body, level it and make it a land. The Lake is gone!

Rohini Sindhuri had told in that interview that 'A proposal was sent to the Government to build Housing Board houses in the 61-acre Kergalli Lake land.' However, for our good fortune, she got it cancelled. Wonder, what happened to this 61-acre Kergalli Lake thereafter.

Similar attempts were made to encroach upon Lingambudhi Lake. *Star of Mysore* and its sister publication *Mysuru Mithra* wrote about it in the early stages and some honest officer, who came as DC, saved it to the extent possible.

About Kukkarahalli Lake less said the better. I have myself written elaborately about it. The sinister plan was to fill up the Lake with debris etc., from the main Hunsur Road side. Of course, later when Prof. K.S. Hegde was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mysore (the custodian of the Lake), he had constructed an earthen-bund across the Lake to prevent sewage and sullage water from getting into the main body of the Lake. But the seepage into the main Lake could not be stopped. Even to this day Kukkarahalli Lake is making news for wrong reasons.

This city needs a **Citizens Watchdog Task Force** of volunteers comprising qualified, retired or working officers, industrialists and visionary Town Planners with integrity to advice, guide and assist the DC, the MCC, the MUDA and the Department of Urban Development. When S.M. Krishna was the Chief Minister, he experimented with Mysore Agenda Task Force. But like any government-promoted or patronised body, it failed.

I have just planted a seed of an idea, hoping it will break earth, sprout and grow to give us comforting shade and fruit to make Mysuru a better place to live. We must, as citizens of Mysuru, do our bit to avoid a Future Shock, which was prophesied by Rohini Sindhuri way back in 2021. God helps those who help themselves.

e-mail
voice@starofmysore.com

KSRTC Chairman hints at bus fare hike

Bengaluru, July 15- In what is probably yet another shock to the people of Karnataka coming after fuel and milk price hike, the State Government-owned KSRTC has hinted at a fare hike.

Speaking to presspersons at Gubbi in Tumakuru district, KSRTC Chairman S.R. Srinivas said that the bus fare hike has become inevitable in the backdrop of rising fuel prices and operational costs.

Pointing out that the KSRTC has been suffering losses due to staff wage hike, rising prices of spare parts and other factors, he said that a fare hike was needed to offset losses.

NWKRTC Chairman Raju Kage too came out in support of Srinivas saying that the fare hike is inevitable in the wake of mounting losses.

Noting that the 'Shakti' scheme, which allows free travel for women in State Transport buses was introduced a year ago, he said that NWKRTC is running under loss.

Meanwhile, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy is said to have expressed his displeasure over the remarks of Srinivas and Raju Kage over bus fare hike. Refusing to comment on the possibility of bus fare hike, he said that Srinivas himself has to clarify on fare hike.

Global Tiger Day

Mysuru Zoo to host two-day seminar

Mysuru, July 15- Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo) will be hosting a two-day seminar on the occasion of Global Tiger Day at its premises in city on July 29 and 30. The theme for the seminar is "Roaring Forward: Effective Actions for Big Cat Conservation."

A forum has been arranged for comprehensive discussion to develop innovative strategies for management, conservation, and re-introduction strategies of big cats. The seminar themes are Ecology and Conservation, In-situ and Ex-situ Management & Current Challenges and Future Prospects.

The experts from the above said field will be sharing their expertise. Researchers, Scientists and Field Experts will be participating in this seminar and an opportunity is provided to share their knowledge and to present oral and poster presentations on the theme.

The best oral and poster presentation will be awarded. The deadline for submission of abstracts is July 15. For details regarding seminar, visit website *https://tigerday.eventsdashboard.in,* according to Zoo Executive Director.

Mysuru's first Skin Bank

CME marks World Plastic Surgery Day

(Continued from page 1)

When a person donates their skin, typically after death, the skin bank ensures the tissue is harvested and processed. It is preserved using techniques such as freezing or treating with chemicals, ensuring it remains usable for extended periods.

The preserved skin is stored under controlled conditions until it is needed and in emergencies, like major burn incidents, the skin bank can quickly provide life-saving skin grafts to hospitals and burn centres.

Proposal not implemented

Despite the K.R. Hospital having a dedicated Burns Ward — reporting 130 to 150 patients per year — there was no facility for a Skin Bank though there was a need. The Hospital authorities had proposed the Skin Bank to the State Government in the past, but the proposal was put in cold storage.

Inaugurating the CME programme at the Department of Plastic, Reconstructive and Burns Surgery, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said that he would extend his cooperation for the advancement of treatment and critical care facilities at MMC&RI and the hospitals associated with it.

"This illustrious institute has been built by my ancestors and I would meet State and Central authorities to ensure that the hospitals are better equipped to treat patients from the Mysuru-Kodagu region," he said.

MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. K.R. Dakshayani, Surgical Society President Dr. K. Dinesh, Head of Surgery Department Dr. Madhu, Medical Superintendents of K.R. Hospital, Cheluvamba, Princess Krishnajammanni Super Speciality Hospital and Princess Krishnajammanni TB Hospital (PKTB) were present.

MBBS seats in Mysore Medical College go up to 200 from 150

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has increased the annual intake capacity of undergraduate seats at Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) from 150 to 200 seats, starting from the academic year 2024-25.

MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. K.R. Dakshayani shared this news with reporters, highlighting the growth from the College's humble beginnings a century ago with just 20 seats to now accommodating 200 undergraduate students.

In 2011, the institution's intake was increased from 100 to 150 seats. In 2021, MMC&RI approached the erstwhile Medical Council of India (MCI) to further increase the seats from 150 to 250. Following the addition of various facilities at the College, the NMC has now approved an increase of 50 seats.

However, there will be no increase in the number of Post-graduate (PG) seats, which currently total 153, including 23 in medicine and 20 in general surgery, among others.

Mission Hospital staff demand employee benefits

Mysuru, July 15 (RK&VNS)- Members of the CSI Holdsworth Memorial Hospital (Mission Hospital) Employees Union, comprising 'D' Group workers, female and male nursing staff, and wardens, launched a protest against the Hospital authorities this morning.

They accused the authorities of non-payment of salaries, ESI, PF, and other statutory benefits. The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) supported the protesting employees.

The protesters claimed that the Hospital authorities had not paid salaries for the past four months and had also failed to pay ESI, PF and gratuity to retired employees. They further alleged that salaries had not been revised for the past seven years.

Demanding the presence of the Hospital Chairman, the protesters stated that the sit-in would continue overnight until the Hospital authorities assured them of resolving the issues. They also mentioned inviting various other associations to join the protest.

About 100 employees, including AITUC Mysuru Region President Sheshadri and Union members Wilson Prabhakar, Shankar, Siddaraju and Puneeth, participated in the protest. Mandi Police Inspector Nagesh and his staff were present at the venue to prevent any untoward incidents.

Hospital clarifies

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Dr. Suguna Shanthi, Hospital Director (In-charge), said, "Being an employee myself I am aware of the issues being faced by the employees. I will speak to the management to resolve the issues related to payment of salaries, ESI and PF as early as possible."

However, she mentioned that the employees demand for salary revision would not be possible now as it would be a burden on the Hospital. "The hospital suffered a huge loss during the first wave of COVID-19. Though, we were able to recover during the second wave, majority of the income was spent on maintenance of the hospital," she added.

New generation should take forward our rich culture and heritage: MP Yaduveer

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar lighting the lamp to inaugurate the Hoysala Karnataka Sangha Founders Day celebration organised by the Sangha at Saptapadi Kalyana Mantapa in Vijayangar here yesterday, as MLA T.S. Srivatsa and others look on.

Mysuru, July 15 (BLU&DM)- Regretting that the new generation is forgetting our rich culture and heritage of the past, MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar said that the youths should remember our ancestors.

He was speaking after inaugurating the felicitation, Pratibha Puraskar and student scholarship distribution programme, organised jointly by Hoysala Karnataka Sangha and Hoysala Karnataka Sangha Charitable Trust as part of its Founders Day at Saptapadi Kalyana Mantapa in Vijayanagar first stage here yesterday.

"The Hoysala community has maintained its special celebrations, practices and culture. The community is also known for its hospitality and pride. Also, the community has maintained a distinctive style of attitude and spoken language," Yaduveer said.

Noting that the Hoysala Karnataka community has been maintaining harmony with all other communities, the MP said that the community has contributed a lot for the growth of the country. The community has also maintained a cordial relationship with Mysore Palace for generations, he added.

Continuing, Yaduveer said that the co-operation of the people is important for Mysuru to retain its identity as a Heritage city. "The Lakshmipuram building of Hosyala Sangha is a heritage one and he has fond memories of it. I have come to know of the developmental activities of Hoysala community and I would extend support to its activities," he asserted.

Eighty elderly members of Hoysala community aged above 80 years were felicitated, 20 members of the Founder's family were honoured, Pratibha Puraskar was presented to 20 meritorious students and student scholarship was distributed to 20 talented students of the community on the occasion.

MLA T.S. Srivatsa, Association President K.R. Satyanarayana, Mysuru District Brahmins Association President D.T. Prakash, writer A.V. Suryanarayanrao and others were present.

Judicial probe ordered into MUDA site scam

(Continued from page 1)

The BJP has demanded a Central Investigation Agency (CBI) probe into the MUDA scam. Legislators across party lines allegedly benefited from illegal land allotments — even after the 50:50 land exchange scheme deemed illegal by the State Government was halted in October 2023.

"Allegations regarding land allocation in the MUDA have not only come to the Government's attention but have also been reported in daily newspapers and media. Convinced that it is appropriate to conduct an inquiry in this case, the Government has decided to constitute a Commission of Inquiry to conduct an inquiry by a retired Judge of the Hon'ble High Court," the Government said in the notification for creation of the inquiry commission.

Suresh Babu is JD(S) Legislature Party leader

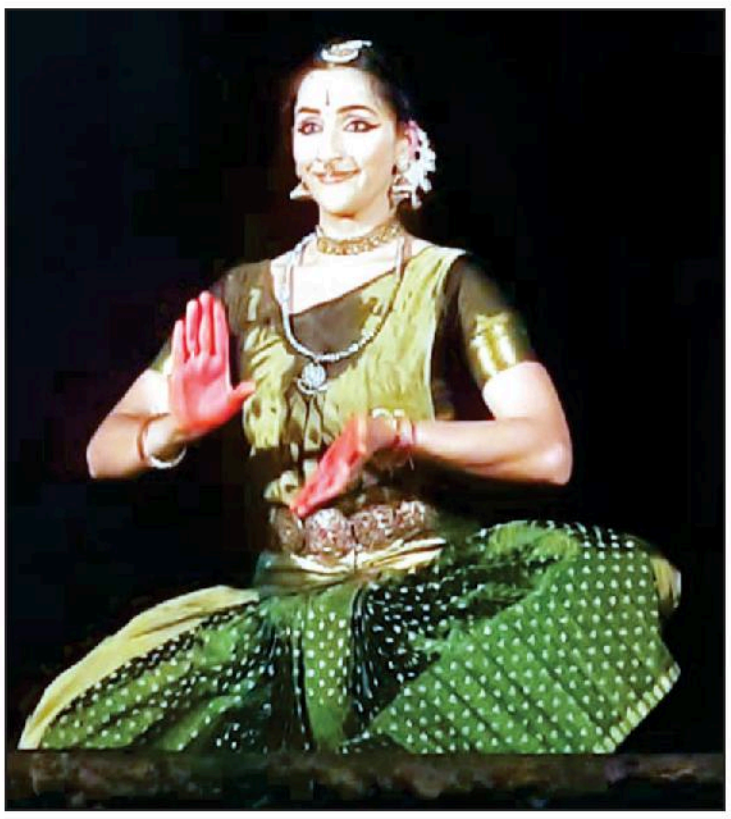
Suresh Babu

Bengaluru, July 15 (KMS&DM)- Senior JD(S) MLA from Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumkur district C.B. Suresh Babu has been appointed as the new JD(S) Legislature Party leader in the State Assembly.

His appointment was announced by Speaker U.T. Khader in the Assembly, following the recommendation by JD(S) State President H.D. Kumaraswamy. The post had fallen vacant after Kumaraswamy was elected as Mandya MP and subsequently quit his Assembly seat from Channapatna and his post as JD(S) Legislature Party leader to become the Union Minister.

Suresh Babu, a Kuruba community leader, is a four-time MLA from Chikkanayakanahalli Constituency.

A distinctive and rich legacy



Surabhi Bharadhwaj

Bhramari Shivaprakash and troupe.

Ganabharathi had recently organised two Bharatanatyam recitals which showcased two young, dedicated artistes. Dance is the means of expression to both of them. It is a part of physical, mental and spiritual journey.

Both are accomplished performers, choreographers and committed teachers. Surabhi Bharadhwaj, who is settled in California, is an all-rounder. She has been honed by many Vidwans like Radha Sridhar, K.M. Raman, B. Bhanumati and has undergone 'Karana movements' training from Dr. Padma Subramanyam.

The other dancer Bhramari Shivaprakash is a disciple of Guru K.B. Madhava Rao and Dr. Vasundhara Doreswamy.

Surabhi performed on the 21st of June 2024 at the Veene Seshanna Bhavana accompanied by Harshitha Vidya (Vocal), D.V. Prasannakumar (Natuvanga), Vinay Nagarajan (Mridanga) and Pradesh Achar (Violin). Surabhi is blessed with a slim and flexible body which she utilises to its maximum capacity.

Most of the items she presented on that day were choreographed by herself. Her quest for perfection, the classicism and individuality were the key notes in her choreography. 'Shrimannarayana' (Raga-Bhowli) was the opening which portrayed Dashavatara. Ramaswamy Dixitar's 'Roopamu joochi' was a Pada varna, set to Todi Raga which had Samudramathana and the story of Bhaktha Markandeya in its sanchari.

'Kanjadalaayatakshi', the famous kruthi of Muthuswami Dixitar in Kamalamanohari was very well presented. The beautiful description of divine Kamakshi was absorbing. Surabhi is perfect in her foot work as well as abhinaya. This was evident all through the concert. The Abhang 'Rukule Maajha' and Ashtapadi 'Naatha hare Jagannatha hare' proved her versatility.

Mysore Vasudevacharya's 'Shree Chamundeshwari,' Choreographed by Parshwanatha Upadhyaya was crisp and the lively Thillana in Varamu brought the curtains down. The wonderful support by all the co-artistes deserve an applaud.

Kumaravyasa Nritya Bharatha

Bhramari Shivaprakash is another accomplished performer who is committed to art. She is known for her thematic presentations. One of them is exploring various literary works through the media of Dance. On the 4th of July, she presented 'Kumaravyasa Nritya Bharatha', a pure classical 'Margam' recital backed by Kumaravyasa's poetry.

Kumaravyasa Bharatha or 'Karnata Bharatha Katha Manjari' is a popular Kannada literary work depicting the epic Mahabharatha which is meant to be read or recited.

Adopting this kind of magnanimous work which is in 'Bhamini Shatpadi' to a 'Pushpanjali', 'Swarajathi', 'Shabdam' or a 'Padavarna' is unbelievable or thought-provoking. But Bhramari is always open for such challenges. She proved it in her two hours performance. The selection of situations, suitable poems which are all metered requires thorough knowledge of the original work, music , dance and good choreography. Above all, the confidence of presenting it in Margam style. Bhramari did justice to all these and won the hearts of rasikas.

'Shree Vanitheyarasane,' the famous opening poem of Kumaravyasa Bharatha was selected for Pushpanjali, in which she paid her respects to Lord Ganesha, Sri Krishna and Vyasa Muni. For Swarajathi, she had chosen the scene of Bheeshma praising Sri Krishna 'Krishna kripa vilasava nodirai' in Arabhi. The childhood and developing enmity of Bhima-Duryodhana was the subject of Shabdam. 'Olage beledudu vairashikhi', sung in Kambodhi, Athana and Des was a perfect choice. The Padavarna form came alive in the shringara of Bheema and Hidimbe, tuned to Rasikapriya and was beautifully presented.

Keechaka -Draupadi prasanga was in a dialogue form in Mohana Kalyani. Added to it was Krishna sandhana. This was for Pada-presentation. The concluding mangala was Gandhari's sorrow. Her agony of losing all her children, her hardship, misery, suffering came alive in Bhramari's abhinaya. She was not only immersed in the situation but carried the audience too along with her.

Such was the power of her involvement. A big chunk of appreciation must go to the rich and vibrating voice of Chandrashekara Kedilaya. To sum up, we need such experiments to keep our heritage and culture alive.

—Dr. Rama V. Bennur

JSS Sangeetha Sabha hosts two-day music concerts

JSS Sangeetha Sabha had organised a 2-day music concert at Navajyothi Auditorium in JSS Women's College, Saraswathipuram, recently on the occasion of its annual day and Basava Jayanti celebrations. Picture above shows Dr. Shertally K.N. Renganatha Sharma presenting Vocal Concert, accompanied by Vidu. Nalina Mohan on violin, Vid. Muruga Bhoopathi on mridanga and Vid. Shamith Gowda on ghata. Picture below shows Kanchana Sisters — Vidu. Kanchana S. Shriranjani and Vidu. Kanchana S. Shruthiranjani — presenting a Karnatak Classical Vocal Duet. They were accompanied by Vid. Udupi Srijith on violin, Vid. H.S. Sudheendra on mridanga and Vid. Sharath Kaushik on ghata.

Moonlight Music

Vidwan Bombay V. Anand and Vidwan Vedagna Narasimha presenting a Violin duet at Suttur Mutt in the foot of Chamundi Hill as part of the monthly moonlight music programme held recently accompanied by Vid. Anoor Vinod Shyam on mridanga and Vid. Sunaad Anoor on kanjira.

Wimbledon Championship 2024

Carlos Alcaraz reigns supreme

WIMBLEDON CHAMPION: ***Carlos Alcaraz posing with the trophy after winning the men's singles title in London yesterday.***

London, July 15 (Agencies)- Third seed Carlos Alcaraz of Spain beat second seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia in straight sets to defend the men's singles title at the Wimbledon Championships here yesterday. It's a repeat of the 2023 show-piece as the Spaniard youngster defeated the Serbian veteran in five sets to lift his maiden Wimbledon title.

A 14-minute-long opening game saw Djokovic broken in the fifth breaking point and the 37-year-old couldn't find a way to come back before losing to Alcaraz 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(4). "He was the better player from the beginning till the end," said the seven-time Wimbledon champion, Djokovic. "I tried to fight my way in the third and come back, saving three match points, extending really the match a little bit. But I guess it was inevitable for him to win today because he was just coming out on the court with a better quality tennis. It's as simple as it is," he added.

Alcaraz broke in the 10th game in the third set and held three championship points in the next game. 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic managed to drag the match to tie-break, but couldn't hold off a fearsome Alcaraz to clinch his fourth Grand Slam title at the age of 21. The Spaniard also became the sixth man in the Open era to win Roland-Garros and Wimbledon back-to-back the same year.

"Obviously it's a really great start of my career, but I have to keep going. I have to keep building my path," Alcaraz said. "At the end of my career, I want to sit at the same table as the big guys," he added.

Meanwhile, Hsieh Su-wei and Jan Zielinski won their second mixed doubles Grand Slam title of the year at Wimbledon by beating Mexican duo Santiago Gonzalez and Giuliana Olmos 6-4 6-2 in a one-sided final.

The Taiwanese-Polish duo, who won the Australian Open title in January after coming together at the last minute, dominated their rivals who were seeking Grand Slam glory after becoming the first Mexican duo to reach the All England Club final.

Taiwan's Su-Wei Hsieh and Poland's Jan Zielinski pose with their trophies after winning the Wimbledon mixed doubles finals in London yesterday.

Spain beats England to win Euro-2024

Berlin, July 15 (Agencies)- In a heart-stopping finale at Berlin's Olympic Stadium, Spain clinched the Euro 2024 title with a dramatic 2-1 victory over England, thanks to a late goal that sealed their fourth European Championship triumph, yesterday.

The match was a roller-coaster of emotions, showcasing the resilience and skill of both teams, but ultimately, Spain's determination and tactical brilliance won the day. The first half seemed a cagey affair, with both teams struggling to create clear-cut chances. England's Phil Foden had the best opportunity, firing a shot on target just before half-time, but Spain's goalkeeper Unai Simon was equal to the task.

Spain dominated possession with 70 percent, yet they found it tough to penetrate England's well-organised defence. Nico Williams was the stand-out for Spain, displaying relentless energy on the left wing, while 17-year-old sensation Lamine Yamal had a quieter first half.

England's defence, led by Luke Shaw and Declan Rice, was rock solid, reflecting their conservative approach. Harry Kane, England's star striker, was largely anonymous, with his only notable effort being a blocked shot.

Spain's journey to the Euro 2024 title was marked by resilience and excellence, winning all seven of their matches. This latest triumph adds to their illustrious European history, with previous victories in 1964, 2008 and 2012. England, despite their talented squad, continued their quest for their first Euro title. The Three Lions will need to regroup and learn from this defeat as they prepare for future challenges.

Spain's triumph in Berlin cements their legacy in European football, while England's wait for Euro glory continues.

Argentina lifts Copa America title for 16th time

Florida, July 15 (Agencies)- Defending champions Argentina secured their record 16th Copa America title by defeating Colombia 1-0, thanks to an extra-time goal from substitute Lautaro Martinez at Hard Rock Stadium, yesterday.

Martinez, the tournament's leading scorer, received a precise through ball from Giovani Lo Celso and lifted his shot over the advancing Colombian goalkeeper Camilo Vargas, in the 112th minute, igniting wild celebrations amongst Argentina fans. Lautaro Martinez's goal was his fifth in the tournament, cementing his position as the top scorer and earning him the Copa America 2024 Golden Boot.

Colombia started the match with high pressure, and Jhon Cordoba hit the post in the seventh minute. Jefferson Lerma and Richard Rios also had long-range efforts saved by Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. In the 36th minute, Messi appeared to hurt his ankle after a collision with Santiago Arias. Though he got back on his feet after receiving treatment, he was clearly hampered for the rest of the half. Colombia continued their offensive in the second half, with Arias and Davinson Sanchez coming close to scoring. Argentina absorbed the pressure well but suffered a setback in the 66th minute when Messi limped off due to his ankle injury. The defending champions kept pushing forward in extra time, testing Vargas with a shot from Nico Gonzalez before Martinez finally found the breakthrough.

With this victory, Argentina secured its third consecutive major title, following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup, matching Spain's achievement of winning the 2008 and 2012 European Championships alongside the 2010 World Cup. Additionally, Argentina ended Colombia's 28-game unbeaten streak.

WORD OF THE DAY

Coterie

Pronunciation: KOH-tuh-ree (Noun)
Meaning: Coterie refers to an intimate and often exclusive group of people with a unifying common interest or purpose.
Origin: A coterie today is, in essence, a clique—that is, a tight-knit group sharing interests in common. Historically, however, coteries hung around agricultural fields, not garden parties. In medieval France, coterie referred to a group of feudal peasants who together held a parcel of land (that coterie comes from the Old French word for a singular peasant, cotier). Such associations of country people inspired later French speakers to use coterie more broadly and apply it to other kinds of clubs and societies. By the time the word began appearing in English texts in the early 1700s, its meaning had been extended to refer to any circle of people who spent a great deal of time together, who shared the same basic attitudes, and who held a passion for some particular topic. Coterie mostly appears now in formal speech and writing, and tends also to imply a bit of exclusivity—if you're thinking of joining your local coterie, you may need to learn the secret handshake, or perhaps bone up on the latest techniques for harvesting barley.
Example: "By day I was exposed to third-wave-feminist texts—lots of talk about claiming my power and rejecting gender roles. But on evenings and weekends, the small coterie of Latino students enrolled in my predominantly white college would gather and dance. The chasm between the bodily autonomy I was being empowered to have intellectually and the physical pliability to a partner's will that salsa required was simply too wide for my teenage brain to bridge." — Xochitl Gonzalez, The Atlantic, 15 Jan. 2024

THE ODD WORD

Duende

The mysterious power of art to deeply move a person.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Can't Cut the Mustard

Meaning: When you use the expression 'Can't Cut the Mustard' you mean that someone is unable to succeed or meet expectations.
Origin: The phrase 'Can't Cut the Mustard' emerged in America at the end of the 1800s. The earliest printed example comes from an 1889 edition of The Ottowa Herald: "He tried to run the post office business under Cleveland's administration, but 'couldn't cut the mustard'." The use of quotation marks indicates that the phrase was already a common one.
Example: "I really like Jake, but he just can't cut the mustard."

QUOTE BOX

History is a vast early warning system. **—Norman Cousins**

RIDDLE THIS

A tree doubled in height each year until it reached its maximum height over the course of ten years. How many years did it take for the tree to reach half its maximum height?

Answer: Nine years.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

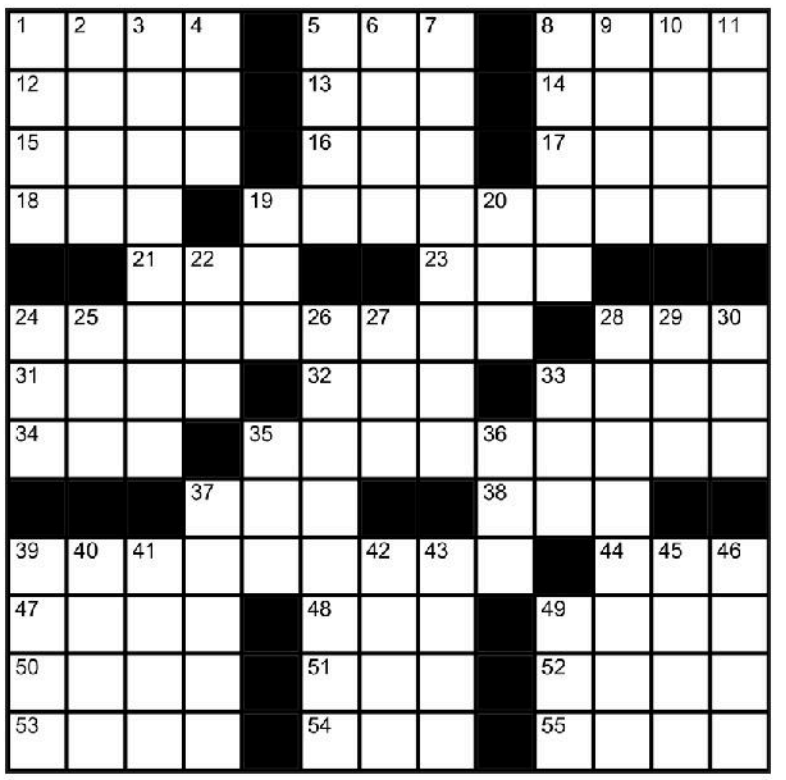
1 Young of horse or related animal
5 ___ Vegas : the famous gambling city?
8 As similar as two peas in _ ___? (1,3)
12 The Indian god of fire
13 Pakistan's intelligence agency
14 "Dive" for a change for a local goddess
15 Tidy
16 Came across
17 Suffer or endure - "reed" anagram ?
18 Come together
19 Slaughterhouses
21 Affirmative
23 Charged particle
24 Science of universe
28 And so on abbr.
31 Hotshots
32 Etna residue
33 Jacob's brother
34 Teletype setter, in short
35 Attempts to curry favour (7,2)
37 Ship's record
38 Debussy heroine
39 Jaunty
44 A shrill bark
47 Pulpit
48 Wrath
49 Chevalier song or Opera heroine
50 Many (1,3)
51 Louse egg
52 Venomous snakes
53 Tool ___ : hardware or their boxes for the mechanics?
54 Greenwich Mean Time
55 "__ _ Small World" (3,1)

DOWN

1 Pointed tooth
2 Curved moulding
3 Dissects
4 Illuminated
5 Body member
6 Aboard ship
7 Remain in position (3,5)
8 Extension (3-2)
9 Persian fairy
10 Ended
11 Passes away
19 Kyushu mountain
20 Nursery item
22 Printer's measures
24 Clear air turbulence
25 Sep sequel
26 Guffawing
27 The German for 'east'
28 Writer like 'Elia'
29 Greek letter
30 Drinking vessel
33 Gad's son?
35 Quagmire or marsh
36 East Anglian city - "ley" anagram
37 Rolls or catalogues
39 U.S. State, for short (1,3)
40 Ancient Indian language
41 Uprising
42 Cut or lop
43 Riga resident
45 Electric current units
46 Italian city famous for its leaning tower
49 French month

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

		M	U	T	E		F	U	S	E
C	O	H	E	R	E	S		I	R	K
O	B	E	L	I	S	K		R	U	I
L	A	N	D	S	L	I	D	E		
A	N	P			A	M	I		P	E
		A	G	A		O	S	T	R	I
S	P	R	A	N	G		C	H	I	N
A	R	T	I	C	L	E		E	M	S
G	O	Y	A		U	R	E			T
			S	T	R	A	N	G	E	L
Q	U	I	T	O		A	T	E	L	I
U	N	I	O	N		T	E	R	E	N
A	D	I	O	S		A	N	O	N	



SUDOKU

7		9					5	
		3		4				
			6		2	9		
5			7					6
	1		5		8		3	
3					9			8
		1	3		6			
				2		4		
	2					3		5

Answer to previous puzzle

6	2	4	9	5	3	7	1	8
9	1	5	4	7	8	3	2	6
3	8	7	6	1	2	5	9	4
1	6	8	7	4	9	2	3	5
7	9	3	8	2	5	4	6	1
4	5	2	3	6	1	8	7	9
8	3	6	2	9	4	1	5	7
2	7	1	5	8	6	9	4	3
5	4	9	1	3	7	6	8	2

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

FKWMEPI EP MYF UBFPMYFMER MYUM

TCVVP MYF SUEB WL PMCSETEMX.

TODAY'S CLUE: M EQUALS T

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: To give up the task of reforming society is to give up one's responsibility as a free man.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Gayathri Theatre** — Ph: 2443568
  Indian 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — Ph: 2520494
  Indian 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — Ph: 2452958
  Indian 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — Mob: 99008-20093
  Indian 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — Ph: 2521923
  Indian 2 (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — Mob: 9886325207
  Indian 2 (H) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — Mob: 98454-14691
  Jackie (K) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — Ph: 2423554
  Sarfira (H) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — Ph: 2422871
  Kalki 2898 AD (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — Ph: 2420885
  Shastri (K) 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	(S-1)	9.35 am; (S-2) 3.55 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	(S-1)	6.45 pm, 10.10 pm
	(S-3)	9.30 am, 12.55 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	(S-3)	7 pm
Indian 2 (Ta)	(S-1)	1 pm
	(S-4)	9.25 am, 3.10 pm
		6.40 pm, 10.10 pm
Inside Out 2 (E-3D)	(S-1)	4.35 pm
Sarfira (H)	(S-2)	9.45 am, 12.50 pm
		7.20 pm, 10.20 pm
Fly Me to the Moon (E)	(S-3)	4.20 pm, 10.25 pm
Despicable Me 4 (E-3D)	(S-4)	1 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	(S-1)	10.30 am, 6 pm
	(S-4)	1.25 pm, 7.45 pm
Love Li (K)	(S-1)	1.55 pm
Indian 2 (Ta)	(S-2)	1 pm, 4.25 pm, 7.50 pm
	(S-3)	6.05 pm, 9.30 pm
	(S-4)	10 am
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	(S-3)	11.10 am, 2.40 pm
Kali Kudukaru (K)	(S-4)	4.50 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Sarfira (H)	:	9 am, 12.15 pm, 3.30 pm
		6.45 pm, 10 pm, 10.30 pm
Indian 2 (Ta)	:	10.30 am, 11.30 am, 2.10 pm
		3.10 pm, 6.50 pm, 10.30 pm
Indian 2 (H)	:	5.50 pm, 9.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	:	10.45 am, 2.25 pm, 6.05 pm, 9.45 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	11.15 am, 6.35 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-2D)	:	2.55 pm, 10:15 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	11 am
Kaagaz Ke Phool (H)	:	11.35 am
Kill (H)	:	2.45 pm
Fly Me to the Moon (E)	:	5.10 pm
Longlegs (E)	:	8.05 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Indian 2 (Ta)	:	9.15 am, 11 am, 2.40 pm, 6.20, 10 pm
Sarfira (H)	:	9.30 am, 12.45 pm, 4 pm, 7.15, 10.30 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	10.30 am
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	11.05 am, 6.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	:	2.50 pm, 10.15 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	3.10 pm, 10.30 pm
Despicable Me 4 (E)	:	12.55 pm
Indian 2 (Te)	:	6.50 pm

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

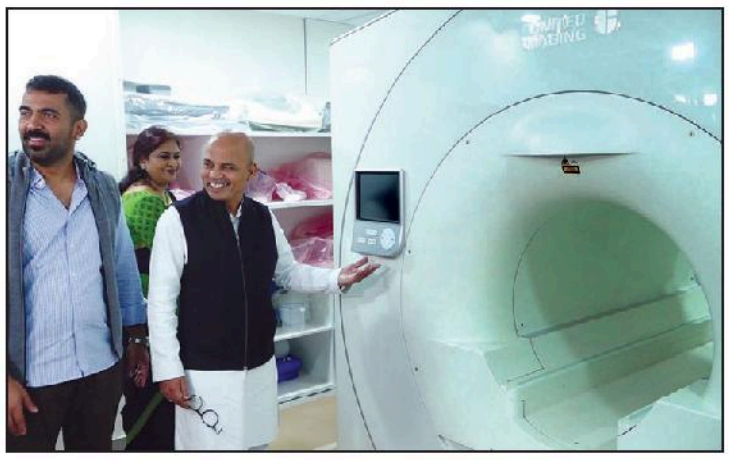
Sarfira (H)	:	9.05 am, 4 pm, 7.15 pm, 10.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-2D)	:	10.40 am, 6.40 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	11.10 am, 2.50 pm, 6.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	3 pm, 10.20 pm
Indian 2 (Ta)	:	11 am, 2.40 pm, 6.20 pm, 10 pm
Indian (Te)	:	12.20 pm
Indian (H)	:	10.10 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	2.20 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

Indian 2 (Ta)	:	7.50 am, 11.30 am, 3.10 pm
		6.50 pm, 10.30 pm
Sarfira (H)	:	9.30 am, 12.45 pm, 7.05 pm, 10.20 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	10.30 am
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	11 am, 6.20 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	:	2.40 pm, 10 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	2.50 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Ma-2D)	:	10.10 pm
Indian 2 (Te)	:	11.10 am
Maharaja (Ta)	:	4 pm
Indian (H)	:	6.30 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15.

Cardiac care centre to come up in Kodagu, assures Minister



Madikeri, July 15 (PS&BCT)- Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Dr. Sharan Prakash R. Patil visited the Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KoIMS) recently and announced plans for a heart examination centre in Kodagu.

He was speaking to reporters after visiting the District Hospital where a new MRI machine is being set up. The machine will be open for public service in 45 days, Dr. Patil said.

Obtaining information from the doctors, administrators and Madikeri MLA Dr. Manthar Gowda on the establishment of a cardiac care centre in Kodagu, the Minister assured that there is a desperate need for a cardiac care centre as people of the district go to places like Mangaluru, Mysuru and Bengaluru for their heart ailments.

"It will be established through Public-Private Partnership and the proposal will be included in the upcoming State budget. Additionally, steps are underway to complete the new hospital building at the District Hospital premises in Madikeri," he added.

He said that the pressure on hospitals in Madikeri is high as patients from neighbouring districts too come here for treatment.

Regarding infrastructure development, the Minister mentioned the need for funds amounting to Rs. 55 crore to Rs. 60 crore to complete the 300-bed Women and Children Hospital in Madikeri of which two floors have been completed and two more floors have to be constructed. He assured that efforts are being made to secure these funds through the Finance Department.

Addressing healthcare personnel shortages, Dr. Patil indicated plans to address the shortage of doctors, with a focus on attracting young doctors to work in smaller districts. He also mentioned plans to introduce postgraduate courses in medicine to further support healthcare in the region.

During his visit, the Minister inspected various ongoing projects at the District Hospital and reviewed the operations of different units within the facility. He assured that vacancies of doctors in Madikeri will be filled soon and staff at critical care units will be prioritised.

Kodagu Deputy Commissioner Venkat Raja, Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnith Negi, KoIMS Dean Dr. Vishal, District Health Officer Satish Kumar and others were present on the occasion.

EVENTS TODAY (JULY 15)

- **Sahara Handicraft and Handloom Association:** Handicraft and Handloom Exhibition, Bharat Scouts and Guides Grounds, behind DC's office, **up to 9 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (JULY 16)

- **Sri Chandramoulishwaraswamy Temple, V.V. Mohalla:** 82nd Jayantyotsava and 20th Brahmotsava Programme, Brahma Rathotsava - Ratharohana, Temple premises, **7.30 am;** Dolotsava, Shayanotsava, **Evening.**
- **Karnataka Govt. School Education Department (Pre-University), National Service Scheme (NSS), Bengaluru and Vidyavardhaka PU College, Mysuru:** Orientation Workshop for Programme Officers from Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Chikkamagalur, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu Districts; Dr. Prathap Lingaiah, State NSS Officer, NSS Cell, Government of Karnataka, inaugurates; D. Carthigueane, Regional Director, Regional Directorate of NSS, presides; Vidyavardhaka Sangha Hon. Secretary P. Vishwanth, special invitee; Vidyavardhaka PU College, Mysuru, **9.30 am.**
- **Department of Studies (DoS) in Food Science and Nutrition, University of Mysore (UoM):** Inauguration of Alumni Association, FSN Golden Jubilee Group and Golden Jubilee Lecture, Vijnana Bhavan, Manasagangothri, **3 pm.**

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